Drawings. Applicants have also amended claims 1 and 7, canceled claim 2, and added new claims 8-19.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-19 remain pending in the application.

SPECIFICATION & ABSTRACT

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objections to the Specification and Abstract have been overcome by this Amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Although Applicants do not agree that claims 1 and 7 as filed were indefinite, in order to advance prosecution of this application to allowance, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 in an effort to clarify the claims hopefully to the Examiner's satisfaction. Applicants also respectfully submit that such amendment has not narrowed the scope of the claims, because when the original claim stated that "the conductor pattern substantially completely covers the corresponding part of the substrate" it is understood that the "covering" is done in a direction from the covering material (the conductor pattern) to the thing being covered (the corresponding part of the substrate).

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 over Morimoto et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Morimoto et al.

for at least the following reasons. In the display device of claim 1, the parts of the conductor pattern are substantially mutually separated by partitioning paths having a minimal path width.

The Office Action stated that such a feature is disclosed by Morimoto et al.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action has cited no text in Morimoto et al. teaching or suggestion this feature, nor have Applicants identified anything in Morimoto et al. teaching or suggestion this feature, or anything at all regarding the width or partitioning paths between parts of the conductor pattern. Applicant respectfully submits that no such feature is taught or suggested by Morimoto et al. If the Examiner believes that Morimoto et al. discloses such a feature, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide a proper citation to some portion of Morimoto et al. where it is believed that such feature is taught.

Indeed, to the extent that anything is revealed in Morimoto et al, FIG. 2 seems to indicate sharp corners throughout the partitioning path, instead of a curved shape which could provide a minimal path width. This would appear to be contrary to the device claimed in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the device of claim 1 is patentable over Morimoto et al.

Claims 3-5, dependent from claim 1 are deemed similarly patentable.

The Office Action rejected claim 6 over Young et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable over Young et al. for at least the following reasons. In the display device of claim 6, parts of the conductor pattern are substantially mutually separated by partitioning paths having a minimal path width. Young et al. does not appear to disclose anything at all about a width of partitioning paths, and to the extent that anything is revealed, FIG. 1 seems to indicate sharp corners along the partitioning path, instead of a curved shape which could provide a minimal path width.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the device of claim 6 is patentable over Young et al.

The Office Action rejected claim 7 over Khan et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is patentable over Khan et al. for at least the following reasons. In the display device of claim 7, parts of the conductor pattern are substantially mutually separated by partitioning paths having a minimal path width. Khan et al. does not appear to disclose anything at all about a width of partitioning paths and so fails to disclose at least the above-identified feature of the device of claim 7.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the device of claim 6 is patentable over Khan et al.

NEW CLAIMS 8-19

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 8-19 are all patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claims 8-9

Claims 8-9 depend from claim 1 and are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1 and the following additional reasons. Also, among other things, the device of claim 8 includes a transparent conductor pattern. In direct contrast, for example, Morimoto et al. teaches that the conductor pattern should be opaque, preferably colored white (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 59-63; col. 4, lines 6-10; col. 5, lines 7-16). Meanwhile, in the display device of claim 9, the distance between adjacent parts of the conductor pattern is substantially constant. No such feature is indicated by Morimoto et al. For at least these reasons, claims 8 and 9 are deemed to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 10-14

Among other things, in the devices of claims 10-14, within the viewing area of the display device, first and second conductor pattern substantially each completely cover a corresponding substrate. Applicants submit that no such feature is disclosed in the cited prior art. Various other novel features are recited in the claims. For at least these reasons, claims 10-14 are deemed to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 15-19

Among other things, in the devices of claims 15-19, first and second conductor patterns, viewed along a direction perpendicular to the substrate, each substantially completely cover a substrate. Applicants submit that no such feature is disclosed in the cited prior art. Various other novel features are recited in the claims. For at least these reasons, claims 15-19 are deemed to be patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1 and 3-19, and pass the application to issue.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2 October 2002

By: _____

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 3 is a plan view of an (alphanumerical) liquid crystal display device. In this example, the liquid crystal display device is shown in a simplified form by means of two transparent substrates 23, 24 between which a layer of liquid crystalline material 26 is present. In this example, the liquid crystal display device is of the transmissive type. For defining pixels, the display device in this example comprises transparent electrodes 27 on the substrate 23 and electrodes 28 on the substrate 24. These electrodes are coated with orienting layers [29]. For the sake of simplicity, further elements such as, for example, polarizers and drive electronics are not shown in Figs. 4, 5. Within the viewing area bordered by the broken lines 12, the substrate 23 is substantially completely covered by conductor pattern 27, with the exception of partitioning paths 13 having a minimal path width. The counter electrodes 28 on the substrate 24 preferably cover a maximal part of this substrate and are mutually separated by partitioning paths 11 having a [maximal] minimal path width which, viewed transversely to the substrate, substantially coincide on both plates at the area of a partition between two segments. Possibly unwanted switching behavior then substantially exclusively takes place along the edges of the segments and is not visible or hardly visible. Parts of the substrate 24 (for example, opposite electrode 27a) in

Fig. 5 are not covered with an electrode in the example of Figs. 3, 4, 5, but this does not always have to be detrimental. For a uniform thickness of the layer of liquid crystalline material 26, an unconnected electrode may be provided, if necessary, again with partitioning paths having a minimal path width between this electrode and the electrodes 28.

In the Claims:

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A display device comprising a first substrate with a conductor pattern, parts of which define pixels, [characterized in that,] wherein at least within a viewing area of the display device, the conductor pattern, viewed transversely to the substrate along a direction from the conductor pattern toward the substrate, substantially covers the corresponding part of the first substrate, and wherein the parts of the conductor pattern are substantially mutually separated by partitioning paths having a minimal path width.

7. (Amended) A display device as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that it comprises] further comprising a second substrate and a layer of electro-optical material between two conductor patterns on [a] the first and [a] second [substrate] substrates, at least one of which conductor patterns, viewed transversely to the corresponding substrate along a direction from the one conductor pattern toward the corresponding substrate, substantially covers the corresponding substrate.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 8-19 have been added.